

# BRIEFING

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## CELEBRATING-OUR-SESQUICENTENNIAL



AUGUST 2008

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### SUBURBAN WORLD OLD TOWN HALL DISPLAYS IRV NORLING PHOTOS

**M**ORE THAN 10,000

images by prolific

Bloomington photographer Irwin “Irv” Norling are on display at Old Town Hall – the “new” home of the Bloomington Historical Society. The collection will be available for viewing through October 2008, after which the photos will rotate in a permanent exhibit at the museum.

Visit the Old Town Hall, 10200 Penn Ave. S., Tuesdays - Thursdays, Saturdays, noon - 4 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m.

### FARMERS MARKET SHOP THE MARKET FOR FRESH PRODUCE AND MORE

**D**ON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE to buy from local farmers, growers and producers. Arrive early and have your pick of the freshest vegetables, baked goods, flowers and more.

The Farmers Market is open Saturdays, through October 11, 7 a.m. - noon, in Civic Plaza's west parking lot, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

### Living Green in Bloomington

#### NEW SUSTAINABLE SATURDAYS

Stop by the Farmers Market for some fresh produce and check out these sustainable living workshops: *Green Cleaning Products*, *Green Roofs and the Benefits of Organic Food*, **Saturday, August 16**, and *Alternative Energy Sources*, **Saturday, September 20, 10 - 11 a.m.**, in the Center for the Arts Atrium, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Sustainability, or contact Planner Michaela Ahern at 952-563-8928.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, AUGUST 2008

## BLOOMINGTON-YESTERDAY

### LAYING BLOOMINGTON'S FOUNDATION THE CHRISTENSEN-SCHERMERHORN FAMILY

**A**NKER CHRISTENSEN came from Denmark in 1931. Christensen wore many hats. He was a farmer, bricklayer and contractor who started out working for his uncle in Minneapolis. Anxious to venture out on his own, he moved his wife Esther and three daughters to Bloomington and soon found a home, as well as a job, at the Foote Farm on 94th Street and Penn Avenue. Christensen farmed 320 acres of land before he began work on his own as a builder and mason contractor. If you owned a brick home around 90th Street and Humboldt in the 1950s, chances are, Anker Christensen laid the bricks. *See page 3 for tips on how to update homes built during this era.*

Christensen's daughter Lilly Schermerhorn remembers helping her father on the Foote Farm. Schermerhorn said she and her dad farmed potatoes, sweet corn and a variety of vegetables, in addition to raising cattle and chickens.

“Everything was horse-drawn back then, so farming was hard work, but we had lots of help from our neighbors,” Schermerhorn said. “We had so much help with thrashing that it was actually fun, because everyone knew everyone and we just made a good time of it.”



Photo courtesy of  
Lilly Schermerhorn.

## AIRPORT SOUTH DISTRICT PLAN DEVELOPING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



**T**HE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON and the Port Authority have selected Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT), a nationally known planning and design firm, as consultant for the *Airport South District Plan*. The plan will guide future land use, transportation, urban design and redevelopment of this important commercial and employment center.

The WRT team will prepare a plan for future development of the Airport South District, located between the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Minnesota River. This unique district comprises two-thirds of Bloomington's commercial development potential and has many advantages including: the Mall of America, Bloomington Central Station, light rail transit, a wildlife refuge, an international airport and two major highways.

“The purpose of the study is to figure out how to best combine these advantages so that the whole area is perceived as unique and attractive to businesses, residents and visitors,” Director of Community Development Larry Lee said. “This collaboration will involve the specific expertise of many

people. We have a lot of area to develop, and we have to plan carefully.”

WRT, known for its *Baltimore Inner Harbor Master Plan*, was selected based on the cutting-edge experience and creativity of its consultants, and its experience with mixed-use, transit-oriented, sustainable development. Incorporating energy efficiency and sustainability will be important, according to Lee. Criterion Planners, an urban planning firm that specializes in sustainability of communities and regions, will advise the City.

City employees play a major role in the project. Planner Julie Farnham will

serve as the Airport South Project Manager/Coordinator and Senior Planner Bob Sharlin will serve as the Chief Project Planner. Senior Civil Engineer Schane Rudlang and Acting Port Authority Administrator Jill Hutchmacher are also planning the project.

Residents, businesses and public agencies attended a study kickoff meeting in May. The study is scheduled for completion by fall 2009.

For more information or to view a the kickoff meeting, visit the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Airport South District Plan, or call Bob Sharlin at 952-563-8925.



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# BEING PREPARED TAKES PRACTICE

## CITY STAYS UP-TO-DATE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

NO ONE LIKES TO THINK about an emergency that could disrupt their daily lives, or worse, harm them or their loved ones. Advance planning and training can be the difference between tragedy and survival. September is National Preparedness Month and the time of the year when families and government should take a few simple measures to prepare for an emergency. Although September brings emergency preparedness to the forefront, the City prepares year-round for all types of emergencies. We do this on a cross-departmental level, through education, training and careful planning.

We also prepare through real-life practice. During last August's back-to-back storms, which caused downed trees and power lines, the City was quick to respond. Dispatch, Police and Fire handled storm-related emergencies. Public Works set up flashers and caution tape on streets with downed power lines, cleared blocked roads and picked up debris. Other City departments collaborated to answer resident questions and disseminate information. Because the City was prepared, in a relatively short period of time things returned to normal.

When the I-35W bridge collapsed, Bloomington's Fire and Police Departments were among the first responders to the scene. Twelve police officers and two supervisors were in charge of command post security for the first 72 hours. Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal, one of the leaders of Minnesota Task Force 1, an urban search and rescue team, was a major contributor to the rescue and recovery effort.

More recently, our neighbors to the south experienced a disaster of their



Bloomington Police Officers in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Left to right: Mike Gallagher, Matt Heinzmann, Tom McCullough, Aaron Paul, Sergeant Jeff Giles. In front: Josh Siefert.

own. Excessive rain caused massive flooding in downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa. When the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security requested our help, one commander, two sergeants and eight officers from Bloomington were deployed to Cedar Rapids. This group functioned as a complete, self-contained, mobile unit and as such, was ready to work at a moment's notice.

Although we can't possibly plan for every natural or man-made disaster, should one occur, we have a protocol to follow.

As important as emergency planning is for a large city, it is equally important to create a plan of action in our own homes.

A report completed post-Hurricane Katrina by the Council for Excellence in Government and the American Red Cross indicates the majority of people affected by Hurricane Katrina admitted that one reason they chose not to be more prepared was because they didn't believe that a disaster could happen to them.

Many people have no plan for how to communicate with family members during an emergency. Follow these tips to ensure that your family is prepared:

- **Start a conversation.** Discuss with your family what to do in various types of emergencies.
- **Purchase or make your own emergency kit.** Be sure to include water, non-perishable food, clothing, sturdy footwear, medications, a first aid kit, battery-operated radio, a flashlight with extra batteries and hygiene items.
- **Make an emergency plan.** Identify two places to meet, one outside of your home and another outside of your neighborhood. Discuss an evacuation procedure and develop a plan for children, older adults and other family members who need special care.
- **Stay informed.** Listen to the radio or television news for current information and instructions.

For more information, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Emergency or [www.codeready.org](http://www.codeready.org).

# BRIEFING

Volume 16, Number 4

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

Web site: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, AUGUST 2008

# WITH YOUR SAFETY IN MIND

## REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANNING AND PREPARATION UNDERWAY



THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION is coming to the Twin Cities, September 1 - 4. It is estimated that convention attendees, media and others will occupy 20,000 hotel rooms per night during their visit. As Bloomington has more hotel rooms than downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul combined, it's likely that almost 30 percent of the convention hotel room attendees will book a room in Bloomington.

To prepare for this influx of visitors, the City is working with federal agencies and local leaders in St. Paul and Minneapolis to ensure a safe and organized event. Many facets of the City will be involved in the convention, including Inspections, Licensing, Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Response. Bloomington, in conjunction with Public Safety agencies throughout the metro area, will be responsible for providing public safety and crowd control preceding and during the convention, with the St. Paul Police as the lead agency.

## CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

### LAW MAKES HOMES SAFER

A NEW LAW was recently passed, requiring carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in all single-family homes and multifamily apartment units. Each single-family and multifamily dwelling unit must be provided with an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm.

The effective date for carbon monoxide alarms in existing single-family homes was August 1, 2008. For all multifamily or apartment dwellings, August 1, 2009, is the effective date.

Carbon monoxide alarms are required within 10 feet of each room used for sleeping purposes.

For more information, contact Fire Prevention at 952-563-8933 or visit the State Fire Marshal's Web site at [www.fire.state.mn.us](http://www.fire.state.mn.us).



## FOR THE HOMEOWNER

### RAMBLER RENOVATORS ADVICE FROM EXPERTS

**R**AMBLERS ARE ABUNDANT in Bloomington. As the population and the homes age, citizens wonder how they can best renovate their living spaces.

After their participation in the City's Home Improvement Fair last February, we interviewed Plekkenpol Builders Vice President of Operations Dave Goodlund and Director of Sales Troy Sinykin for answers to some frequently asked questions on updating and remodeling ramblers. With 28 years experience, Plekkenpol Builders has remodeled countless rambler kitchens, baths, lower levels and porches.

**Q Are ramblers generally easy to remodel?**

**A** Ramblers have fewer challenges than other types of homes. They have simple rooflines, the lower and main levels stack on top of each other and the rooms are usually rectangular and easily added to or merged. Their architecture adapts to craftsman and modern styles very well.

**Q What should the rambler homeowner update first?**

**A** Most 1950s and 1960s ramblers have had their mechanicals and appliances updated once and are probably ready to have them updated again. Kitchen and bath updates are among the most common upgrades. Adding a porch or deck is a good way to add space and value. We'd also suggest converting the breezeway to a year-round space.

**Q Because they're one level, ramblers make excellent retirement dwellings. What more can be done to make them senior-friendly?**

**A** There are many things that could be done, such as:

- Combine bedrooms to make a large master suite with an accessible bathroom.
- Widen doorways and change door knobs to levers.

- Move the laundry room to main floor.
- Raise vanity heights and install grab bars.

**Q What is the most cost-effective update a homeowner can make?**

**A** Increasing the home's energy efficiency by upgrading the furnace, water heater and attic insulation will make a huge impact. Then look at updating the kitchen or adding additional space.

**Q What is the average price tag on a kitchen remodel?**

**A** It varies significantly. To give a kitchen a fresh look, consider installing new lighting, flooring, countertops and hardware and adding a fresh finish to cabinets and walls. This would cost roughly \$6,000 - \$15,000.



### DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT SAYS GOODBYE POLICE CHIEF LAUX RETIRES



**A**FTER YEARS of dedicated service, Police Chief John Laux announced he will retire in October.

Chief Laux's law enforcement career spans nearly six decades. He began his chosen profession as a patrol officer for the Minneapolis Police Department in 1968. Laux quickly moved up the ranks, from patrol officer to investigator to sergeant before being promoted to chief in 1989.

In 1995, Laux left the Minneapolis Police Department to become executive director of the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training, where he spent four years.

Although Laux has always been active in the community, the opportunity to work for the Bloomington Police Department (BPD) did not present itself until 2003 when Laux served on a planning committee for Bloomington Civic Plaza.

"I have lived in Bloomington for 45 years; my kids went to school here," Laux said. "I knew I wanted to be in Bloomington."

Laux said he is proud to be part of such an outstanding department, one that boasts the highest closure rate of criminal cases in the state.

"The BPD is very accepted by residents and you don't see that in every community," Laux said. "We handle calls responsibly and with great pride."

Laux is currently board chair of the Minnesota Institute of Public Health. He is also on the board of D.A.R.E. Minnesota, CornerHouse Interagency Child Abuse and Evaluation Center, and Cornerstone, an organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse.

In addition to his community service, Laux holds many professional memberships, including: Hennepin County Chiefs of Police, Minnesota Chiefs of Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police, F.B.I. National Academy Associates and National Executive Institute.

Although he will miss leading the BPD, Laux said he is looking forward to traveling with his family and spending more time with his seven grandchildren.



### FREE HOME IMPROVEMENT SEMINARS SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AND REMODELING

**T**HE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (HRA) is offering two free home improvement seminars. *Sustainable Gardening: Using Native Plants and Water Management*, will be held **Thursday, August 14, at 7 p.m.** Topics for discussion include: caring for native plants, how to sustain your garden and how to grow a rain garden. *Green Materials for Remodeling* is scheduled for **Thursday, October 23, at 7 p.m.**

For more information, contact Tom Holman at 952-563-8941 or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: HRA.

## A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

### CITY DEVELOPMENTS RECOGNIZED 2007 BEST IN REAL ESTATE AWARDS

**T**HE MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL BUSINESS JOURNAL recognized three Bloomington developments in its annual Best in Real Estate supplement last spring.



**Best Industrial Project – Progressive Rail**, 94th Street and James Avenue, for renovating a vacant 385,000 square-foot building and turning it into a multitenant, state-of-the-art facility.

**Best Green Project – Two MarketPointe**, 4400 W. 78th St., for unique sustainability features that combine floor-to-ceiling windows, an under-floor air distribution system and high-performance lighting with recycled and sustainable building materials to make an environmentally and employee-friendly space.



**Finalist, Multitenant Office Development – 8200 Tower**, 5600 W. 83rd St., for its pre-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold project, which will include 275,000 rentable square feet of office space with an on-site daycare, fitness center, concierge service and more.



### EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS CITY TAKES HOME AWARDS

**T**HE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON recently captured five awards for communications and finance reporting.

The Government Finance Officers Association presented the City with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2008 Budget Presentation.

At the Minnesota Association of Government Communicator's Northern Lights Awards event, Awards of Excellence went to the *Briefing*, 2007 *Corporate Report to the Community* and the *Insider*, the City's employee newsletter. The City's Web site, *CityWEB*, received an Award of Merit. Judges commented that the *Briefing* is "an excellent publication" that is "easy to read and well-organized."

For more information, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or e-mail [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).





## SAFELY DISPOSE OF ELECTRONICS RECYCLE OLD ITEMS FOR FREE

**D**ID YOU KNOW that when you throw certain electronics into the trash, you are actually releasing toxic chemicals into the environment such as lead and mercury that may end up in our rivers and lakes? Dispose of old electronics through Hennepin County's drop-off center.

Hennepin County recycles TVs, audio equipment, computers and telephones, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and thermometers, free of charge at its South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center, 1400 W. 96th St. The facility is open **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

For more information, visit [www.GreenGuardian.com](http://www.GreenGuardian.com).



## A CLEAN MAILBOX STOP RECEIVING UNWANTED CATALOGS AND ADVERTISING

**E**ACH YEAR, more than 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. Besides being annoying, these unwanted catalogs hurt the environment. It takes 53 million trees to produce the 3.6 million tons of paper used to create 19 billion catalogs. How can this number be reduced? Simply go to [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org) and opt out of receiving almost any catalog of your choosing. This free service is a great alternative to the Do Not Send list. It's fast, easy and it helps the environment.

## CASH IN THE TRASH TOO MUCH PACKAGING EQUALS WASTE

**A**CCORDING TO the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. produced 12 million tons of plastic packaging in 2006. Almost 90 percent of that plastic was thrown in the garbage. Purchasing items with less packaging reduces waste. It also makes items easier to open.

### Tips to buy less trash:

- Drink juice from concentrate. Juice boxes create more waste.
- Purchase canned tuna. Foil packaging is not recyclable.
- Buy large bags of chips and crackers instead of "snack packs."

For information, visit our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Recycle.



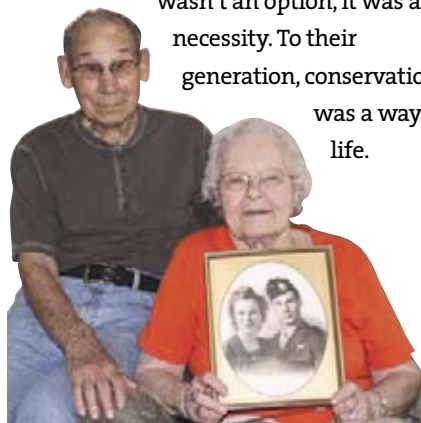
*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES LONGTIME CONSERVATIONISTS BURT AND AUDREY

**D**URING THE DEPRESSION and World War II, conserving what little one had was common practice. Recycling was introduced as a way to help the war effort. Tin cans were saved to provide more ammunition for soldiers. Metal, paper and rubber were collected to be reused. Many Americans planted "Victory Gardens" to grow their own food.

Like their neighbors, residents Burt and Audrey Fisher began recycling to help the war effort. They continue to do so today to help the environment.

Burt, who just celebrated his 90th birthday, remembers when recycling wasn't an option, it was a necessity. To their generation, conservation was a way of life.



During the Depression, Burt found work with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to conserve the nation's natural resources and fight against soil erosion and declining timber resources, while providing jobs for the unemployed of mostly large, urban areas. In joining the CCC, Burt earned a small salary while helping to stabilize eroding fields and mine limestone.

"We wouldn't dream of throwing anything away," Burt said. "It was unheard of to waste anything, especially food."

Indeed, not only did the Fishers practice conserving food, they planted and canned their own produce.

"We canned everything from tomatoes to onions," Audrey said. "Planting and canning our own food saved money and was much healthier."

When Burt returned to Minnesota after being injured in the war, he moved his family to Bloomington. One of the first things they did was plant a garden and install a compost pile, which they still use today. Burt and Audrey also continued to recycle inside their home.



According to Burt, paper products were rarely used and never wasted.

"The only towels and diapers we ever used were cloth," Burt said.

Although much has changed since the 1940s, the Fishers still incorporate these practices into their lives.

"It's important to conserve and recycle because if we don't we will eventually run out of room for all this waste," Burt said. "I tell my grandchildren, we have to take care of the earth."

Burt said his grandchildren watch him when he recycles newspaper and throws food scraps in the compost pile.

"We set an example by the way we live," Burt said. "Every little bit helps."

## NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL PRESERVING THE CITY'S PRAIRIES

**A**T FIRST GLANCE, a prairie may appear to be just a mishmash of tall grasses and weeds, but in reality, it is anything but. According to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson, the native grasses found in prairies control many unwanted weeds from spilling into city turf areas.

Wildflowers such as giant hyssops, yellow coneflowers, bush clovers and black-eyed susans are abundant in prairies. Some plants are small, while others may grow six feet high. Birds and butterflies are drawn to them. Prairies provide food and habitat for a wide variety of insects and wildlife. They're also



City prairies are maintained through controlled burning.



easier to maintain than conventional turf areas. Prairies don't require as much labor, weed control, equipment fuel or fertilizer, which translates to less money and energy used. This also means that prairies are naturally better for the environment.

"As the active use of our parks grows, so does the demand for better maintenance," Edwardson said. "If we can cultivate these naturalized prairie areas, we will have more time and resources to devote to other areas."

These are all reasons why, for the past 15 years, the City has been working to protect and restore Bloomington's 27 naturalized prairie areas.

City prairies are maintained through a controlled burning process every two to four years. The burning reduces weeds such as buckthorn, and gives wildflower seedlings more room to regenerate. Weather conditions have to be just right before a burn by experienced professionals can take place. Prairies may also be mowed if burning is not possible.

"We burn them down to keep them up," Edwardson said.

For more information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8162.

## CITY PLANNER EARNS LEED CERTIFICATION

### PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING



**P**LANNER MICHAELA AHERN recently became certified as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"LEED emphasizes a holistic approach to building. The design and planning of a new structure are focused to achieve a cost-effective, resource-efficient result," Ahern said. "I hope that through my work as a planner, I can share this knowledge with applicants," Ahern said.

Being LEED AP-certified means that Ahern has the knowledge and skills required to facilitate a LEED certification process, which ensures that a building project meets the highest green building and sustainable performance measures.





## FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES NEW ONLINE RESOURCE AVAILABLE

**T**HE **MNPARENTSKNOW.COM** WEB SITE, cosponsored by Bloomington Public Health, is a convenient source for information on child learning, development, health and safety. It was developed by the Minnesota Department of Education in partnership with state and national childhood education and health leaders.

The site includes the Child and Family Web Guide, with information and links to more than 75 parent video and audio downloads, information about children's developmental milestones, childcare resources and much more.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Family Health or visit [www.MNParentsKnow.com](http://www.MNParentsKnow.com).

## EAT YOUR VEGETABLES

### PURCHASE LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE TO IMPROVE HEALTH

**T**HE **RECOMMENDED DAILY INTAKE** of fruits and vegetables in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* was increased from 5 - 12 servings to 7 - 13 servings (3.5 - 6.5 cups) per day for adults. For youth, the recommendation is 4 - 10 servings, depending on age and activity level.

According to the Youth Health Update report compiled by Bloomington Public Health, most Bloomington youth will have to more than double the

amount of fruits and vegetables they consume to meet the daily requirement.

Marianne Nelson, dietitian and coordinator for the City's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, encourages parents to offer fruits and vegetables to their children at an early age.

"It's very important to frequently offer a wide variety of fruits and vegetables to children in a pleasant, mealtime environment," Nelson said.

With food prices going up, families can eat healthier for less by purchasing more locally grown food at the Farmers Market. *See page 1.*

For information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: WIC, or call WIC Coordinator Marianne Nelson at 952-563-8993.



## ON PATROL BPD HONORED



### CITY DETECTIVES HONORED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

**T**HE **MINNESOTA** Chiefs of Police Association recently honored three Bloomington Police detectives for the diligence and dedication they displayed in collaborating to solve two murder cases. Bloomington Detectives Ed Hanson, Kim Jones-O'Brien and Mary Olson earned the Association's Distinguished Service Award for their investigative work.

"These three investigators represent the finest in law enforcement," Bloomington Police Chief John Laux said. "Their tenacity and caring assure that the citizens of Bloomington receive the best service possible."

### BLOOMINGTON POLICE EXPLORERS

#### STATEWIDE COMPETITION EARNS EXPLORERS TOP HONORS



**T**HE **BLOOMINGTON** Police Explorers earned numerous awards at the 33rd Annual Minnesota State Explorer Conference. The Explorers competed in 11 team events against 50 other teams from across the state. They received first place awards in Bomb Scene Searches and Street Decisions and a second place award in Hostage Negotiations.

The Explorers responded to a variety of mock situations with live actors. They were judged on how well they controlled the situation and the decisions they had to make.

In July, three Explorers competed against more than 4,000 Explorers at the national Explorer Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado.

### EXPLORER EARNS SCHOLARSHIP

**A**LEXANDRA ANDERSON received the 2008 Shawn Silvera Memorial Scholarship for exemplifying the character, personality and professionalism for which Lino Lakes Police Officer Shawn Silvera, who was killed while on duty responding to a call, is remembered.



## TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



### VEAP NEEDS YOUR HELP DONATIONS OF TIME AND MONEY ARE SOUGHT

**V**OLUNTEERS Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) is experiencing the most difficult summer of operation in its 35-year history. According to Executive Director Susan Freeman, working families and elderly are experiencing all-time high prices for food, fuel and utilities and within a few months may be close to a state of crisis.

Assistance sought includes:

- More volunteers to help sort and distribute food.
- Monetary donations to purchase perishable food.
- Donations of school supplies and \$15 school supplies cards.

For more information, call VEAP at 952-888-9616 or visit [www.veapvolunteers.org](http://www.veapvolunteers.org).



## OCTOBER IS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

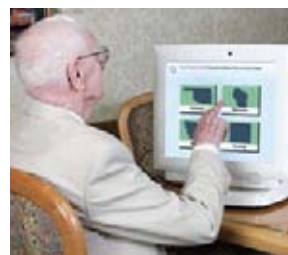
### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARD

**H**UMAN SERVICES and the Disability Awareness Employment Committee are currently seeking nominations for the Disability Employment Awareness Month Business Recognition Awards, given to businesses that excel in the employment of people with disabilities. To access a nomination form or for more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Disability Employment, or call Program Coordinator Melissa Wurst-Persaud at 952-563-4950.

### BOOSTING BRAIN POWER NEW PROGRAM FOR AGING ADULTS

**T**HE CITY **RECENTLY PURCHASED** a new computer system especially for aging adults. All it takes to participate is the ability to touch the screen. [m]Power, by Dakim, is a unique program designed to improve the quality of life for adults desiring to maintain their brain health and for those at risk for or living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or arthritis. [m]Power engages the user with a variety of mentally stimulating and entertaining exercises that transform rigorous cognitive exercise into a fun activity.

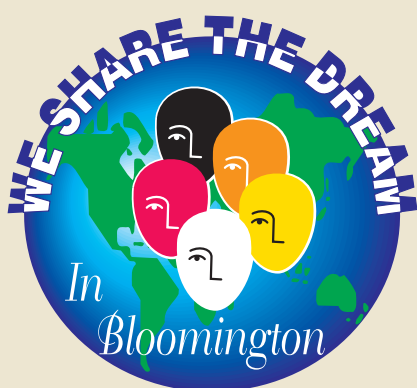
Currently, the program has the capacity to accommodate 20 registered users. For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OMAR BONDERUD AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

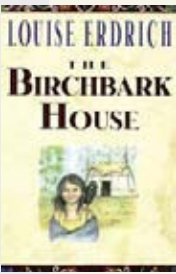
**T**HE **BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION** is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. This award is presented annually to an organization or individual who has made a significant contribution toward ensuring the human rights of people in Bloomington. Human rights areas for consideration may include: equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education and any other service that affects the social well-being of the community. The nominee must live or work in Bloomington and meet other established criteria.

For more information, call the Bloomington Human Rights Commission at 952-563-8733 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Omar Bonderud.





BLOOMINGTON READS  
LOCAL CELEBRITIES LEAD BOOK  
DISCUSSIONS



**P**ARTICIPATE IN A **READING** and discussion of Louise Erdrich's *The Birchbark House*, a historical novel that follows a year in the life of Omakayas, a seven-year-old Ojibwe girl living on Lake Superior in 1847.

Along with the day-to-day struggles her tribe faces, Omakayas contends with the knowledge that settlers are moving to the island in increasing numbers. This book is sure to spark discussions with readers both young and old.

Notable book discussion leaders include: Mayor Gene Winstead, **September 7**; Councilmember Steve Peterson, **September 14**; Representative Ann Lenczewski, **September 21**; and Bloomington Schools Indian Education Program Coordinator Heidi Hecker, **September 28**.

All readings are **2 - 4 p.m.**, at Old Town Hall, Penn Avenue South and Old Shakopee Road.



CELEBRATION AT THE MINNESOTA MASONIC HOME

**T**HE MINNESOTA MASONIC HOME CARE CENTER, 11501 Masonic Home Drive, will host a special Sesquicentennial Family Celebration, **Sunday, August 10, 1 - 4 p.m.**

Families will be treated to historical exhibits, costumed reenactors, carriage rides, an antique car show, caricature sketchers, plenty of food and other entertainment.

Built next door to the American Automobile Association (AAA) Country Club in 1920, the Masonic Home is a piece of Bloomington history. *See photo above.* Built in 1908, the American Automobile Association Country Club included a Swiss chalet-style clubhouse, ballroom, lower-level grotto and floral gardens.

After a fire, the club was rebuilt on the same site in 1919. The members also built and maintained the road between Minneapolis and the country club in Bloomington, and drove there on Sundays until it closed.



SESQUICENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

**B**LOOMINGTON SESQUICENTENNIAL memorabilia, including t-shirts, caps, commemorative coins and mugs, is available for purchase.

Purchase items at the Parks and Recreation counter at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Proceeds support Bloomington Sesquicentennial activities.

**Additional anniversary items** are also available, including collectable spoons, lapel pins, sandstone coasters and mouse pads. Proceeds support the City of Bloomington Employees' Advisory Committee. Purchase items in Human Resources at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.



TAKE A "RIVER  
RENDEZVOUS"  
A FESTIVAL OF LIVING HISTORY

**R**IVER RENDEZVOUS is a unique opportunity to see our rich past come alive. The event will be held at Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 E. 104th St., on **Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** This year's event features music and dance performances by the Native Pride Dancers. Led by internationally known fancy dancer Larry Yazzie, the group performs traditional Native American drumming, singing and dancing.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Rendezvous.



SHOW-YOUR-BLOOMINGTON-SPIRIT

GET OUT AND VOTE

PRIMARY ELECTION – SEPTEMBER 9  
GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 4

**E**XERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE for candidates seeking election to federal, state and county offices this fall. Prior to Election Day, verify your polling location.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

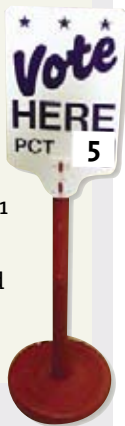
Sample ballots will soon be available to view online, visit our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Voting.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

Ask the election judges if you need assistance at the polling places. All sites are accessible and have AutoMARK voter-assist terminals to help voters who have disabilities in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

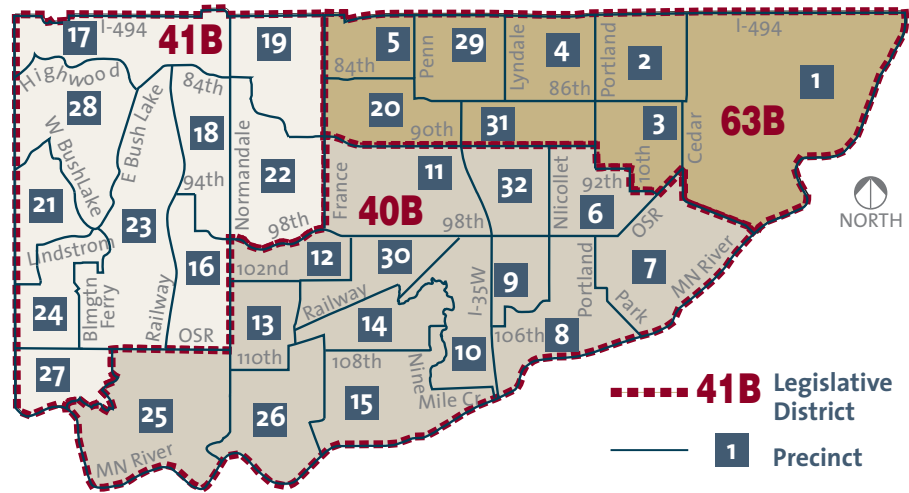
PRECINCTS 5 AND 11  
POLLING LOCATION CHANGE

**V**OTERS IN PRECINCTS 5 AND 11 will be voting at different locations in 2008. Precinct 5 voters will vote at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 8400 France Ave. S. Precinct 11 voters will now vote at the Bloomington National Guard Armory, 3300 . 98th St.



2008 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729 – [WWW.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US](http://WWW.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US), KEYWORD: VOTING



Precinct/Polling location

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge<br>3815 American Boulevard East |
| 2 | Portland Avenue Methodist Church<br>8000 Portland Avenue South     |
| 3 | Cedar Valley Church<br>8600 Bloomington Avenue                     |
| 4 | Unity Church South<br>7960 1st Avenue South                        |
| 5 | St. Stephen Lutheran Church<br>8400 France Avenue South            |
| 6 | Bloomington Lutheran Church<br>9350 Portland Avenue South          |
| 7 | Indian Mounds Elementary School<br>9801 - 11th Avenue South        |
| 8 | Riverside Reformed Church<br>10201 Nicollet Avenue South           |
| 9 | Nativity of Mary School<br>9901 East Bloomington Freeway           |

Precinct/Polling location

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 10 | St. Luke's Lutheran Church<br>1701 West Old Shakopee Road                        |
| 11 | Bloomington National Guard Armory<br>3300 West 98th Street                       |
| 12 | Crosspoint Church<br>9801 France Avenue South                                    |
| 13 | Hubert Olson Elementary School<br>4501 West 102nd Street                         |
| 14 | Mount Hope Lutheran Church<br>3601 West Old Shakopee Road                        |
| 15 | Westwood Elementary School<br>3701 West 108th Street                             |
| 16 | Normandale Hylands<br>United Methodist Church<br>9920 Normandale Boulevard South |
| 17 | Peace Lutheran Church<br>8600 East Bush Lake Road                                |
| 18 | The Church of St. Edward's<br>9401 Nesbitt Avenue South                          |

Precinct/Polling location

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 19 | St. Stephen Lutheran Church<br>8400 France Avenue South                   |
| 20 | Washburn Elementary School<br>8401 Xerxes Avenue South                    |
| 21 | Sunrise Park Shelter<br>9401 Bloomington Ferry Road                       |
| 22 | Normandale Hills Elementary School<br>9501 Toledo Avenue South            |
| 23 | Community of the Cross<br>Lutheran Church<br>10701 Bloomington Ferry Road |
| 24 | Bloomington Lutheran School<br>10600 Bloomington Ferry Road               |
| 25 | Bethany Missionary Church<br>6900 Auto Club Road                          |
| 26 | Southwood Center<br>4901 West 112th Street                                |
| 27 | Bethany Missionary Gymnasium<br>6900 Auto Club Road                       |
| 28 | Bloomington Fire Station #6<br>8601 Lakeview Road                         |
| 29 | Christ the King Lutheran Church<br>8600 Fremont Avenue South              |
| 30 | Oak Grove Presbyterian Church<br>2200 West Old Shakopee Road              |
| 31 | St. Bonaventure Catholic Church<br>901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)     |
| 32 | Oxboro Evangelical Free Church<br>9431 Nicollet Avenue South              |



## FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

### BLOOMINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL SOME OF THE BEST JAZZ PERFORMERS IN THE TWIN CITIES



**F**AST BECOMING ONE OF THE PREMIER JAZZ EVENTS IN THE STATE, the Bloomington Jazz Festival will be held **Sunday, August 10, 2 - 7:30 p.m.**, at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road. Fans of Dixieland will want to show up early as the **Jumpin' Jehosaphats** take to the stage at 2 p.m. to open the festival. For traditional New Orleans jazz, with some old time blues and funk thrown in for good measure, don't miss **The Jack Brass Band** at 3:20 p.m., *photo above*. The **Bend in the River Big Band**, performing at 4:40 p.m., was formed in 1987 and has been a mainstay in the Twin Cities ever since. The **Connie Evingson Quintet** will close the festival at 6 p.m. Free parking is available in the Normandale Tower Office ramps across 84th Street or to the east on Chalet Road. The event is free. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

### 2008 FALL MUSIC SHOW A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY, A LITTLE BIT ROCK N' ROLL

**T**HE 2008 Fall Music Show, featuring country and standard music performed by the Crickets, *see photo right*, and the Renegades, is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 24, at 1 p.m.**

This special performance, presented by Bloomington Human Services, takes place at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$3; children under the age of 12 admitted free. For advanced group ticket sales, call Lois Liudahl at 952-831-3199. For more information, call *Ask the City* at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



### SUMMER FETE SPONSORS THANK YOU!

#### CORPORATE SPONSORS

Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.  
Clover Cleaners of Bloomington  
Crowne Plaza – Minneapolis Airport West  
David Fong's Restaurant  
Falafel King, Inc.  
Feldmann Imports  
Friendship Village of Bloomington  
Gyropolis, Inc.  
Hansen, Jergenson, Nergaard & Co.  
Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington  
Knowlan's Super Markets, Inc.  
Kraus-Anderson Realty Company  
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MOA Land Holdings  
NorthMar Real Estate Services  
Raindance Sprinkler Systems  
TCF Bank  
Wal-Mart  
Walser Automotive Group  
Washburn McReavy Funeral Chapels  
Wentworth Properties  
Ziegler, Inc.

Corporate donations totaled \$9,400 and individuals donated nearly \$10,800!

Thank you, Sponsors!



## ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!



**T**HE ADAPTIVE RECREATION & Learning Exchange (AR&LE) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities living in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield to participate in recreational and educational programs that are specially designed to meet varied ability levels. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

**CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS.**

### ADULT AND YOUTH SPORTS

#### WOMEN'S AND CO-REC VOLLEYBALL

**L**EAGUES ARE HELD Monday through Thursday, beginning **Monday, October 13**, and continuing through mid-December. Cost is \$240 resident and \$295 nonresident.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

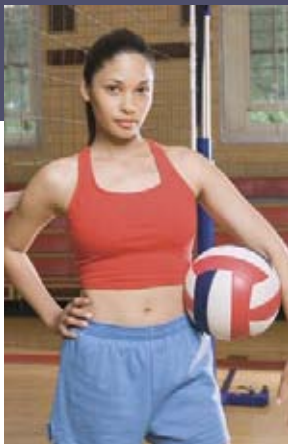


#### SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**E**ACH YEAR, Bloomington Athletic Association inducts one or more persons into the Sports Hall of Fame. The award honors men and women who have contributed their time and energy to the growth of amateur sports.

When: Thursday, October 9.  
Where: Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 W. 79th St.

For more information, call Dan Wallerus at 952-884-6675.



## CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**L**OCATED IN Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar.

### BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

Call 952-563-8587 for more information.

#### EXHIBITIONS

Hours:	M - F	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
	Sa	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Su	1 - 10 p.m.

#### INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

**Fleeting Bits of the Ordinary**, featuring artists Gregory Graham and Joy Liberman, runs through **September 5**.



*Freedom of Choice* by Joy Liberman.

#### ATRIUM GALLERY

**Waterbourne Witness: Elegies for My New Orleans**, featuring artist Shelly Holl, runs through **August 29**.



*Fury in the Ninth* by Shelly Holl.

### SCHNEIDER THEATER

#### CRAZY FOR YOU

Presented by the Bloomington Civic Theater, this classic Gershwin comedy is an extravaganza of song and dance with hilarious dialogue and an artfully constructed story. Performances are **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sundays 2 p.m., August 15 - September 14**.



#### ANGELICA CANTANTI AUDITIONS

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choir auditions are going on now for children in grades 2 - 12. For more information, visit [www.angelicacantanti.org](http://www.angelicacantanti.org) or call 952-563-8572.





BLOOMINGTON  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BARBARY COAST  
DIXIELAND BAND

Barbary Coast is among the finest entertainers in the Midwest, their authentic Dixieland Jazz Music is sure to please. **Saturday, September 20, 2008.**

UNFORGETTABLE!

Carolyn Pratt, Kathleen Humphrey, Bradley Greenwald and Charles Kemper perform melodies by Broadway’s celebrated song writing partners. **Saturday, October 4, 2008.**



MONROE CROSSING

Enjoy an upbeat blend of classic and traditional bluegrass, bluegrass gospel and heartfelt originals. **Saturday, October 11, 2008.**

ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH  
CHOIRS, TO SING IS TO FLY  
FUNDRAISER CONCERT

Join us for a special evening supporting the arts and celebrating music and children. **Saturday, November 22, 2008.**

EDGEWATER EIGHT, HOLIDAY  
CONCERT

This lively performance ensemble will present a tasty mix of Broadway, seasonal and sentimental holiday favorites. **Saturday, December 20, 2008.**

BING CROSBY AND THE ANDREW  
SISTERS, SWING REVUE

Kathy Mueller, Lisa Pallen, Aimee Fischer and Arne Fogel showcase jazz hits, swing anthems and holiday favorites in the inimitable styles of Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters. **Sunday, December 21, 2008.**

ROBERT ROBINSON GOSPEL

Discover why the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* says “Robert Robinson is a volcanic talent who absolutely knocks an audience on its heels.” **Saturday, January 10, 2008.**

TANNER TAYLOR TRIO - A  
TRIBUTE TO OSCAR PETERSON

Tanner Taylor, commonly referred to as the Twin Cities’ “young lion” jazz pianists pays tribute to the late great Oscar Peterson. **Sunday, March 22, 2009.**



TONIC SOL-FA

With simply four voices and a tambourine, Tonic Sol-fa has carved out a niche as the nation’s top vocal group. **Friday, June 5, 2009**

2008 - 2009  
PERFORMANCE SERIES

THIS YEAR the Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series is more exciting than ever! The series includes excellent theater, band and choral concerts, as well as jazz, bluegrass and show tunes. All performances are held in the wheelchair-accessible Schneider or Black Box Theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	ADULT	SENIOR/ STUDENT
2008					
FR - SA	Sept 5 - 6	7:30 p.m.	Reflection	\$17	\$15
SU	Sept 7	2:00 p.m.	Reflection	\$17	\$15
SA	Sept 20	7:30 p.m.	Barbary Coast	\$20	\$18
SA	Oct 4	7:30 p.m.	Unforgettable!	\$20	\$18
TH - SA	Oct 9 - 25	7:30 p.m.	It Wasn't Murder?	\$17	\$15
SU	Oct 12 - 26	2:00 p.m.	It Wasn't Murder	\$17	\$15
SA	Oct 11	7:30 p.m.	Monroe Crossing	\$22	\$20
SA	Nov 22	7:00 p.m.	To Sing Is To Fly Fundraiser Concert	\$20	\$18
SU	Nov 23	4:00 p.m.	America, the Beautiful	\$10	\$8
TH - SA	Dec 4 - 20	7:30 p.m.	A Christmas Carol	\$17	\$15
SU	Dec 7 - 21	2:00 p.m.	A Christmas Carol	\$17	\$15
SA	Dec 6	7:30 p.m.	The Messiah	\$14	\$10
SU	Dec 7	3:00 p.m.	The Messiah	\$14	\$10
SA	Dec 20	7:30 p.m.	Edgewater Eight	\$20	\$18
SU	Dec 21	2:00 p.m.	Bing Crosby & the Andrew Sisters Revue	\$20	\$18
2009					
SA	Jan 10	7:30 p.m.	Robert Robinson	\$20	\$18
SU	Mar 8	4:00 p.m.	A Grand Tradition: 40th Anniversary Celebration	\$10	\$8
SU	Mar 22	2:00 p.m.	Tanner Taylor Trio: A Tribute to Oscar Peterson	\$20	\$18
SA	Apr 18	7:30 p.m.	The Colors of Spring	\$14	\$10
SU	Apr 19	3:00 p.m.	The Colors of Spring	\$14	\$10
TH - SA	Apr 30 - May 16	7:30 p.m.	Arsenic and Old Lace	\$17	\$15
SU	May 3 - 17	2:00 p.m.	Arsenic and Old Lace	\$17	\$15
SU	May 17	4:00 p.m.	Divas, Dramas and Other Delights!	\$10	\$8
FR	June 5	7:30 p.m.	Tonic Sol-fa	\$22	\$20



CREATE A SERIES AND  
SAVE UP TO 25%

Order tickets for four or more events to create a performance series MultiPass and save \$2 per ticket. This offer may be applied to adult and senior/student tickets, but may not be combined with other discounts.

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS

- 1 **By phone:** Call the Bloomington Box Office at 952-563-8575.
- 2 **Online:** Visit [www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org), select “order tickets.”
- 3 **In person:** Call 952-563-8575 for box office hours. Due to the seasonal nature of our organization, box office hours change according to demand.

All seats are reserved. Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office. No tickets will be held without full payment in advance. Programs and artists are subject to change. *All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges allowed.*



AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

Enjoy overtures, songs, marches, and more in a review of American music by the Medalist Concert Band. **Sunday, November 23, 2008.**

A GRAND TRADITION: 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Celebrate 40 years of musical excellence with the Medalist Concert Band. **Sunday, March 8, 2009.**

DIVAS, DRAMAS AND OTHER  
DELIGHTS!

Indulge in the passion of music. **Sunday, May 17, 2009.**



THE MESSIAH

The Bloomington Chorale presents Handel’s beloved masterpiece as the perfect way to begin the holiday season. **Saturday - Sunday, December 6 - 7, 2008.**

THE COLORS OF SPRING

Haydn’s *Creation* heralds the coming of spring. As the earth is reborn in all her glorious colors, we celebrate in music. **Saturday - Sunday, April 18 - 19, 2009.**

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER  
GALLERY THEATER COMPANY

REFLECTION

A thought, an image or a glimpse of life in a mirror through music, dance, visual arts and spoken word. **Friday - Sunday, September 5 - 7, 2008.**

IT WASN'T MURDER?

Enjoy a funny whodunit by local playwright Jamey Olsen. **Thursday - Sunday, October 9 - 26, 2008.**



Celebrate the season with this classic Victorian morality tale by Charles Dickens. **Thursday - Sunday, December 4 - 21, 2008.**

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

This beloved black comedy revolves around a theater-hating drama critic who must deal with his crazy family while trying to get married. **Thursday - Sunday, April 30 - May 17, 2009.**